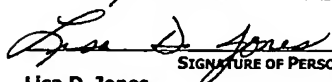


PATENT

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : Peter M. Bonutti et al.  
For : METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
POSITIONING A SUTURE ANCHOR  
Group Art Unit : 3731 (?)  
Examiner : T. Pham (?)  
Attorney Docket No. : BON-3306-3

CLEVELAND, OHIO 44114-1400  
February 15, 2002

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Prior to action, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Page 1, after the title of the application please insert the following:

**Related Application**

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/533,076 filed March 22, 2000. The aforementioned Application Serial No. 09/533,076 is itself a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/084,627